

# Education Held Threat To Soviets

## Allen Dulles Sees Kremlin Worry

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By Robert S. Bird

Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said yesterday that scientific and technical education in the Soviet Union now challenges the free world. While its total manpower pool of trained men does not yet match this country's, he said, Russia is turning out more scientifically trained graduates than the United States.

But in Soviet mass education, he added, recent improvements of standards appear to pose a threat to Russia itself. With mass education now approaching the seventh-grade level, Mr. Dulles asserted, any further raising of standards might well weaken Soviet ideological control over the people.

### Addressed Alumni

Addressing the alumni luncheon held in conjunction with Columbia University's annual commencement, the top intelligence official of the nation also gave his appraisal of the new Soviet "co-existence" development and his view of the Tito situation.

A broadened educational basis within, contacts with the world without, uncertainty in high governmental command and the absence of a dictator are all forcing the Soviet Union toward compromises, Mr. Dulles said.

Previous peace and co-existence offensives were always followed by purges and a return to the rigid Stalinist line, he asserted, but today not only are the Soviet people not told who is boss, but educational enlightenment also helps to make "a return to the dark ages far more difficult than in the past."

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### "Dangerous Forces"

"I would not be bold enough to predict that the Soviets might not attempt to return to the rigidity of a Stalinist regime," he said. "I do predict that this would be no easy task. In introducing mass education, the troubled Soviet leaders have loosed forces dangerous to themselves. It will be very difficult for them henceforth to close off their own people from access to the realities of the outside world. A hard choice faces the perplexed and probably unharmonious group of men in the Kremlin."

With the current compromises, Mr. Dulles continued, "comes the inevitable admission that the Soviet Marxist-Leninist system is not the only permissible way of life."

"If co-existence should really become the Moscow line, then the Western free systems must be permissible, and if permissible anywhere, why not permissible in the Soviet Union itself?"

"If the Tito form of heresy, denounced a few years ago more ferociously even than capitalism, is now to be forgiven and approved, how can the Soviets deny the European satellites the right to a similar heresy if they so desire?"

### Comparisons Given

On the subject of scientific and technical education, the C. I. A. director furnished comparative figures. He said:

"While total Soviet scientific manpower at the university graduate level, is about the same as ours—somewhere over a million each—about half of the Soviet total were trained by the inferior pre-war standards. In number of research workers—a good index of average quality—we estimate that the United States has a 2 to 1 margin over the U. S. S. R. in the physical sciences."

"We must remember, too, that the United States has a substantial number of competent engineers who have not taken university degrees but have learned their trade through experience."

### More Graduates

"The U. S. S. R. has no real counterpart for this group, just as it has no substantial counterpart for the vast American reservoir of persons with high-grade mechanical skills."

"But lest we become complacent, it is well to note that the Soviets are now turning out more university graduates in the sciences and engineering than we are—about 120,000 to 70,000 in 1955. In round numbers, the Soviets will graduate about 1,200,000 in the sciences in the ten years from 1950 to 1960, while the comparable United States figure will be about 900,000."

Mr. Dulles cautioned that these figures "emphatically do not mean that Soviet higher education as a whole is as yet comparable to that of the United States." Over half of Soviet graduates are in the sciences, compared with less than 20 per cent in this country, he said.

Concerning mass education, he said that by 1960 Russia will have four to five times as many secondary graduates per year as it had in 1950, including about as many women as men.

Ten alumni received medals of the Alumni Federation for conspicuous Columbia alumni service at the luncheon. At the annual meeting of the federation at John Jay Hall on the campus, where the luncheon was also held, George V. Cooper, vice-president of White Swan, Inc., of Yonkers, was elected president of the federation to succeed Frederick V. Bryan. Mr. Cooper is a member of the Class of 1917.